

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method for managing a network element inventory for a video and  
2 data network comprising:  
3               self-discovering a physical network inventory of the video and data network;  
4               self-discovering a logical network inventory of the video and data network;  
5               providing a planned network inventory of the video and data network;  
6               loading the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and  
7 planned network inventory into the network element inventory;  
8               synchronizing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and  
9 planned network inventory in the network element inventory;  
10              receiving a request for a view of the network element inventory; and  
11              providing the view using the synchronized physical network inventory, logical  
12 network inventory, and planned network inventory.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 a Very high bit rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) network.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 a Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL) network.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, wherein the planned network inventory  
2 comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, wherein the planned network inventory  
2 comprises planned physical network inventory.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, wherein synchronizing the physical network  
2 inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory comprises comparing  
3 the planned network inventory with the self-discovered physical and logical network  
4 inventory.

1           7.     The method of claim 6, further comprising creating a repair ticket if  
2 the comparison of the planned network inventory with the self-discovered physical and  
3 logical network inventory is not substantially equal.

1                   8.     A method for managing a network element inventory between one or  
2 more operation systems for a video and data network comprising:  
3                   self-discovering a physical network inventory of the video and data network;  
4                   self-discovering a logical network inventory of the video and data network;  
5                   providing a planned network inventory of the video and data network;  
6                   loading the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and  
7 planned network inventory into the network element inventory;  
8                   synchronizing the physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and  
9 planned network inventory in the network element inventory;  
10                  creating one or more views of the network element inventory using the  
11 synchronized physical network inventory, the logical network inventory, and the planned  
12 network inventory for the one or more operation systems;  
13                  providing the one or more views to the one or more operation systems.

1                   9.     The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving an update of self-  
2 discovered physical, self discovered logical, and planned inventory.

1                   10.    The method of claim 9, further comprising re-synchronizing the  
2 physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory in the  
3 network element inventory with the update of self-discovered physical, self discovered  
4 logical, and planned inventory.

1                   11.    The method of claim 10, further comprising creating one or more  
2 views of the re-synchronized network element inventory for the one or more operation  
3 systems.

1                   12.    The method of claim 11, further comprising providing the one or more  
2 views using the re-synchronized physical network inventory, logical network inventory, and  
3 planned network inventory.

1                   13.    The method of claim 8, wherein the operation systems comprise sales,  
2 engineering, and marketing systems.

1                   14.    The method of claim 8, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 a Very High Bandwidth Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) network.

1                   15. The method of claim 8, wherein the video and data network comprises  
2 an xDSL network.

1                   16. The method of claim 8, wherein the planned network inventory  
2 comprises planned virtual network inventory.

1                   17. The method of claim 8, wherein the planned network inventory  
2 comprises planned physical network inventory.

1                   18. The method of claim 8, wherein synchronizing the physical network  
2 inventory, logical network inventory, and planned network inventory comprises comparing  
3 the planned network inventory with the self-discovered physical and logical network  
4 inventory.

1                   19. The method of claim 18, further comprising creating a repair ticket if  
2 the comparison of the planned network inventory with the self-discovered physical and  
3 logical network inventory is not substantially equal.